



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF SASKATCHEWAN GRAIN GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

R. C. SANDERSON, Editor

FARMERS ORGANIZE

Spirited circular sent out by Mr. Green to the boys of Saskatchewan.

Sir,—Organization of the different classes of interests seems to be the order of the day. In different provinces, municipalities, corporations, manufacturers, retail associations, tradesmen, different bodies of labor unions, etc., each contributing money and men to study out the different intricate problems affecting their own particular interest.

Our modern systems of communication, transportation, distribution of products, methods of exchange, banking systems and the thousand of intricate workings of the money power, and the different manipulations of those skilled in those matters seem to drive the classes to organization for study of their relationship as a class to the other classes; to get better acquainted with the operation of their own particular business and its relation to the general public, and particularly to note the effect of legislative enactments on their calling and those engaged in it.

Not the least of these, although perhaps one of the last, is the attempt to thoroughly and permanently organize the grain growers in the great wheat-producing area of Saskatchewan. For several years this association has been working, and much has been done by legislation put into operation at their suggestion to remove burdens and grievances affecting them in the matter of shipment and grading of grain. But the organization has lacked permanency, continuity and universality. No progressive policy could be adopted or projected, because at the end of each year all membership ended and all had to be done over again and no one could tell what next year's membership would be.

To overcome this the idea of life membership has been adopted. \$12.00 makes a man a member for life. \$10.00 of this is to go into a trust fund, to be invested on farm properties, the interest to be used only for the carrying on of the work of the association. This fund will produce as much revenue per annum as has heretofore been paid into the Central association per member, and a man once a member is always a member. Each member added will increase the weight, strength, force and momentum, as each member will become a live agent for the association. The idea is to get every grain grower in Saskatchewan a member. When we have 100,000 grain growers, and they are all enrolled as life members, this association will have a trust fund of one million dollars, with an income of some sixty thousand dollars per year.

This would enable them to have legal and expert advice and students to study the various problems and secure sufficient data to enable them to present their claims in an intelligent and forcible manner, which both railway corporations and bodies politic would sit up and listen to. And when Manitoba has 100,000 farmers, and Alberta has 100,000, and they all get into this thing with 300,000 farmers organized together, with a trust fund of \$3,000,000, an income annually of some \$180,000 or \$200,000 permanently secured, the farmers will begin to com-

mand attention something commensurate with their importance to this country. Twelve dollars each, not per annum, but once and for all! Will the farmers do this to put themselves in an intelligent, business, systematic organic union to look after their own interests? We think so. At any rate we are going to try. Everything has been done to safeguard and make secure and permanent this fund. It is not a commercial venture. It is just to provide permanent, thorough, stable organization to carry out the objects and aims of the Grain Growers' Association of Saskatchewan. A. W. Irwin, John Maharg and Ben. Thomson are the trustee board of the life fund. The writer has been appointed official organizer for the province. The work will be carried on continuously. The ordinary membership as in the past will be continued for those who cannot see their way clear to pay for a life certificate. Applications for life membership have already commenced to come in. We do not expect to beg and pray. This thing is of the farmers, for the farmers and by the farmers. It is not a large sum. It is numbers

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